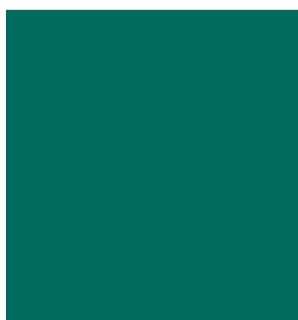


OUR YEAR  
2020 - 2021



Greener  
Kirkcaldy







# Greener Kirkcaldy

**Greener Kirkcaldy** is a community-led charity and development trust working locally to combat the climate emergency, tackle fuel poverty and food insecurity, and bring people together for a more sustainable Kirkcaldy.

We deliver a range of projects, events and skills training to meet the needs and goals of local people – working towards a future where everyone can live better and tread more lightly on our planet.

## Key Stats

**75** volunteers gave  
**3,840** hours of their time

**800** people took part in  
**70** events online and outdoors

Almost  
**1,000** people joined our online community on social media

**2,423** energy advice sessions through telephone calls or home visits

**356** handy service visits, installing measures like thermal curtains and LED bulbs

**10,650** Community Meals To Go served

**6,110kgs** of good food redistributed through the Lang Toun Larder and Community Fridge

**386** bikes repaired and serviced by Lang Toun Cycles

## Between April 2020 and March 2021, our activities included:

- Emergency food and energy support for vulnerable people during lockdown
- Community Meals To Go – a weekly takeaway meal in place of our usual shared meals
- Smarter Cooking courses teaching basic cooking skills and household budgeting
- The Lang Toun Larder ‘pantry’ project and Community Fridge, redistributing surplus food from local businesses and individuals
- Growing and gardening workshops
- The Cosy Kingdom energy advice service, helping Fifers keep warm and save money
- Climate change information events and activities
- Launching the Climate Action Fife partnership project
- Development and launch of Lang Toun Cycles, a social enterprise cycle shop offering cycle servicing and repairs, sales of refurbished bikes and accessories and a bike borrowing scheme
- Cycle maintenance classes and free cycle fix-it events
- Led cycle rides to build participants confidence to cycle for local journeys
- Kirkcaldy Walking Festivals and Kirkcaldy Cycling Festival
- Volunteering and employability opportunities in our community gardens, community building, helping at our events, leading cycle rides, being climate champions and blogging for our website

# Greener Kirkcaldy Response to the pandemic

During the first lockdown our Community Food team staff and volunteers provided food aid and social support. We distributed **7,500 meals** to vulnerable people between April and August 2020. We made direct deliveries to over **100 households** with a friendly doorstep chat, and distributed additional meals via partner organisations.



Volunteer delivering meals by bike during lock down

In **September**, our town centre community building reopened to the public. We resumed our weekly Community Meals as a takeaway. We restarted cookery courses and workshops, with smaller class sizes to allow for social distancing in the training kitchen.

During the **winter 2020-21**, the government gradually reintroduced restrictions in response to the ongoing pandemic. We closed our premises again at the end of December 2020, but we continued to deliver essential services including the pantry, Ravenscraig Walled Garden and Lang Toun Cycles. We provided bike loans to key workers and Dr Bike fix-it sessions during lockdown.

We created online content and events helping people stay connected, improve their health and wellbeing and take action on climate change.

**Cosy Kingdom** supported people online and over the telephone. The service, which usually makes home visits, pivoted quickly to the new way of working and continued to help households who were struggling to keep their homes warm or manage their energy costs.

## **We finally re-opened our premises in April 2021.**

We are so grateful to all our volunteers for keeping everything going through two periods of lockdown and the period of uncertainty in between.

### **Our work in 2020-21 was funded by:**

Fife Council, the Scottish Government, The National Lottery Community Fund, Climate Challenge Fund, Local Energy Scotland, Energy Saving Trust, Robertson Trust, Paths for All, Rank Foundation, community donations, and the customers of our social enterprise projects. We thank them all.

# 2020 - 2021 Headline Moments



# Greener Kirkcaldy

## MAY 2020

We continued to develop our community orchard and training garden at **Ravenscraig Walled Garden**, with regular volunteer gardening sessions. The garden volunteers greatly appreciated the opportunity for social contact in a safe outdoors environment during the pandemic.



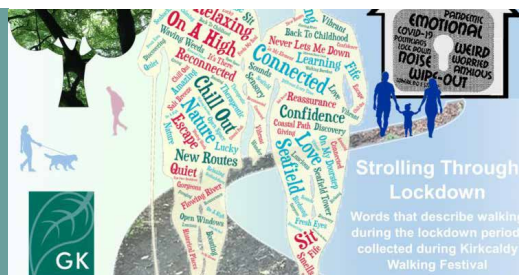
## JULY 2020

Around 60 people joined us for the **Kirkcaldy After Lockdown** event to share their ideas and aspirations for our town and the role Greener Kirkcaldy should play. 150 took part in an online survey too. We used the results to update our Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 and guide our future work.



## AUGUST 2020

Over 700 people took part in our online **Kirkcaldy Walking Festival**, getting fresh air, exercise and connecting with nature.



## OCTOBER 2020

We started a new Fife-wide cross-sector climate action project – **Climate Action Fife** – in partnership with Fife Council, Fife College and Fife Communities Climate Action Network. It was the first project in Scotland funded by the National Lottery's new Climate Action Fund.





## NOVEMBER 2020

We opened **Lang Toun Cycles**, our town centre community bike shop. The shop offers cycle servicing and repairs, and sales of refurbished bikes and accessories. We offer free bike loans, to make it easier for people in Kirkcaldy to cycle more. The project team are also delivering outreach cycle maintenance workshops and fix-it events.



## FEBRUARY 2021

62 people attended the online event '**Bikepacking in Scotland: Discovering the past – enjoying the present**'. To inspire people to holiday at home we invited Marcus Stitz, founder of Bikepacking Scotland, to tell us about his cycling adventures and the network of trails across Scotland that he has helped develop.



## FEBRUARY 2021

Two members of the Community Food team staff completed **training** to become accredited tutors and Greener Kirkcaldy became a Royal Environmental Health Institute (REHIS) training centre, offering Cooking Skills, Allergy Awareness, and Elementary Food Hygiene courses.



## MARCH 2021

Cosy Kingdom Project Manager Bruce McCall won the '**Exceptional People, Exceptional Times**' award at the Energy Action Scotland Fuel Poverty conference. Energy Action Scotland wanted to recognise the contribution made by exceptional individuals who helped vulnerable people and communities during Covid-19.



## MARCH 2021

We developed a **mural** in the East Fergus Place building, which celebrates the community ownership of our building and tells the story of Greener Kirkcaldy. Local artists Hazel Terry and Catherine Lindow worked with our community, and national charity Community Land Scotland, to create the mural.





# 2021

## and beyond

Kirkcaldy Walking Festival

We continue to focus on supporting our community through the pandemic and all the uncertainty the 'new normal' has brought about.

The **Cosy Kingdom** energy advice service, community food and gardening activities and work to engage our community on greener travel and waste reduction will continue in 2021-22 and beyond.



Action to tackle the climate emergency remains a high priority. The delivery of the **Climate Action Fife** project will be a major focus in 2021-22.



**brag enterprises**  
Enterprising People, Sustaining Communities

Training and employability is becoming a core part of our work and we have developed a new partnership with Fife charity **BRAG Enterprises** to provide specialist employability activities to young people in Fife as part of No One Left Behind. We are working towards becoming an SQA accredited training centre.



We held a **Fife Food Summit** event in June. It focused on reducing food waste, keeping good food in circulation, using and procuring local and seasonal food. We are now working with a wide range of partners including Fife Council in the Food4Fife Sustainable Food Places partnership to keep action on climate-friendly food high on the agenda.

In July 2021, the Carbon Literacy Project approved our **Fife Climate Knowhow** course. Since then 40 Fifers have completed the training, including many Greener Kirkcaldy staff and volunteers.

**Carbon Literacy Project**



In July/August, the **Kirkcaldy Walking Festival** returned as an in-person event for the first time since 2019. Over the week, 132 people attended 11 walks run by local organisations.



## Cosy Kingdom

Melissa was furloughed from her job during the Covid-19 pandemic. Because she was spending more time at home and using more energy, she was struggling to keep her electricity prepayment meter topped up and pay her gas direct debit.



Cosy Kingdom made an application online on her behalf to the Warm Home Discount. We issued a fuel voucher to help her stay on electricity supply until she received her next furlough payment. We provided advice on using her heating controls as well as turning appliances not in use off standby. Melissa was grateful for our support, which came as a great relief.

## Food Works!

Charlene has completed over 350 hours of volunteering with Greener Kirkcaldy. She completed our Food Works! Training and Employability programme in Autumn 2018. She signed up as volunteer shortly after that. She began studying Culinary Arts at Fife College in Spring 2019 and is currently in her final year. She has now started a part time job as a Community Cook/Coordinator with Peace 'n' Jam at St. Luke Evangelist Church in Glenrothes.



## Lang Toun Cycles

A group of three women from the Linktown area completed our first Build Your Own Bike course with Lang Toun Cycles. They had taken part in cycle skills training and group rides before but were unlikely to buy bikes themselves, due to limited budgets. The chance to build one has given them the opportunity to continue cycling for their own benefit, reduced their reliance on cars and given them knowledge of how to look after their bike.



“ The Backpacking webinar with Markus last night was entertaining, informative, and really inspiring. We're plotting a John Muir Way ride later this year (hopefully - fingers crossed!) ”

“ After going to the cooking class I now batch cook from scratch and freeze surplus and I have less vegetable waste as I make soup and freeze it. ”

“ I love my job and align myself strongly with the aims of the organisation. It motivates me to share the message and engage as many people as possible in the work we do. ”

“ I like getting hands-on with bikes and using different tools and techniques that I wouldn't use in day-to-day life. For anyone new looking to volunteer, go for it. The skills and knowledge I have gained from working one day a week are immeasurable, furthermore, I'm doing this whilst help out the community. ”

“ Thanks for the lovely meal and fun party we had tonight. I really enjoyed myself. Thanks to all involved in the organisation of it. I am very lucky to be volunteering at such a fantastic place. ”

“ Using the ebike to get to the ambulance station and back has been fantastic. It's only a short journey so was feeling bad for driving it. The rest of the guys are jealous! ”

“ I did this walk and felt it helped my mental and physical health immensely at a time where it wasn't easy to stay positive and motivated. ”

“ Having a group of likeminded people and an outdoor space to enjoy and work in has proved to be a huge success during this difficult year. People have really appreciated having access to locally grown food, nature and each other. ”

Find out more about our work at: [www.greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk](http://www.greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk)

**Support us** by becoming a member, donating or volunteering

**Keep up to date** by joining our mailing list, or following us on social media.

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#### Contact us

8 East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XT  
01592 858458  
[info@greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk](mailto:info@greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity No. SC041412

 **Greener  
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